

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, based on this amendment and these following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 through 68 are now in this case. Claims 63 through 68 are added.

Claims 63 through 68 are added to more completely cover all aspects of the invention. It is submitted that no new matter is introduced by these claims, considering the clear support in the specification.¹ Favorable consideration of these claims in this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants also wish to bring the information listed on the enclosed PTO/SB/08A to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office in connection with this application. The listed references were each applied against certain claims in an Office Action mailed August 24, 2004 in the *Ex Parte* Reexamination² of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,180, which is a patent claiming priority of the grandparent application to this application.

Copies of the references are enclosed. The references are in the English language. As such, no additional statement of relevance is provided in this paper.³ However, in the spirit of full candor with the Patent and Trademark Office, new claims 63 and 64 are similar to claims 35 and 36 of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,180, which were rejected in the course of the reexamination of that patent as unpatentable over combinations of references including these newly cited references. Without acquiescing in that rejection in the reexamination, Applicants respectfully submit new claim 63 and its dependent claims 64 through 68 are further patentable over the prior art in this case, including this newly cited prior art, considering the additional elements presented in these claims relative to claims 35 and 36 of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,180.

¹ See specification of 10/757,195, paragraphs [0040] through [0047].

² Reexamination Control No. 90/006,903

³ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(3)(i).

This information is being cited before a first Office Action on the merits in this application. Applicants therefore submit that the citing of this information is timely.⁴

By citing these references, Applicants do not admit that any of these references is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability of any of the claims of this application.⁵

Consideration of this information in this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims in this case are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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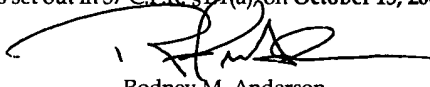
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37 C.F.R. 1.8

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, and addressed as set out in 37 C.F.R. §1.1(a), on October 15, 2004.



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⁴ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3).

⁵ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h).